OPIATES

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WHAT ARE OPIATES?

- Opiates are drugs that are derived from the Poppy Plant and are Central Nervous System (CNS) depressants.
- The most common opiates are:
  - Opium
  - Heroin
  - Morphine
  - Codeine
- There are several synthetic opiates available, such as methadone, that were created as pain killers and to help treat heroin addiction.

HISTORY of OPIATES

Thai Woman Smoking Opium
photo by John W. Allen

1903 Heroin addiction in the United States rises at an alarming rate.

1905 U.S. Congress bans opium.

1906 U.S. Congress passes the "Pure Food and Drug Act" which caused that availability and consumption of opiates to decline dramatically.

1909 The first federal drug prohibition passes in the U.S., outlawing the importation of opium and opiates.

1910 The Chinese convince Britain to dismantle the India-China opium trade.

HISTORY of OPIATES

Small Packets of Heroin
Anonymous Photographer, © 2001 Erowid.org

1914 *The "Harrison Narcotics Act" is passed which required all doctors and pharmacists that prescribed opiates to register with the government and pay a tax.*

1922 *The "Narcotic Import and Export Act" is passed which restricted the importation of crude opium except for medicinal purposes.*

1923 *The first federal drug agency, U.S. Treasury Department's Narcotic Division, is formed and all narcotic sales are banned.*

1924 *The "Heroin Act" is passed and the manufacture, possession, and consumption of heroin is made illegal.*

1925 *In the wake of the federal ban on opiates, a thriving black market opens in New York's Chinatown.*

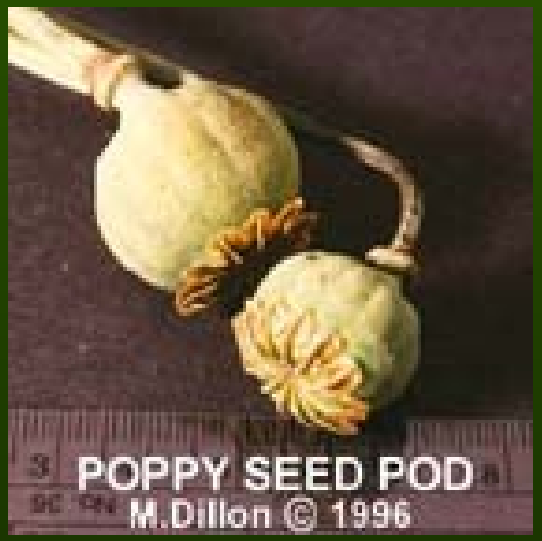
HISTORY of OPIATES

1930s The majority of illegal opiates smuggled into the U.S. comes from China.

1945 Burma gains independence from Britain following WWII and opium cultivation flourishes in the surrounding areas.

1962 Burma outlaws the cultivation, possession and consumption of opiates.

1965-70 Opium and heroin smuggling into the U.S. is at an all time high. This is blamed in part on the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. An estimated 750,000 heroin addicts live in the United States.



HISTORY of OPIATES

1970 ***Controlled Substance Act is passed which divided drugs into categories and set penalties for crimes involving narcotics.***

Mid 1970s ***Heroin and Opiate use in the U.S. begins to subside. Mexican heroin enters the market and would remain a large player for almost a decade.***

1978 ***The U.S. and Mexican governments meet and decide on a way to eliminate the Opium farms in Mexico. The U.S. proceeded to spray the Poppy fields with Agent Orange.***

HISTORY of OPIATES

1988 Opiate production in Burma increases due to the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the Burmese junta regime. The single largest heroin seizure is made in China, 2,400 pounds.

1992 Colombia's drug lords introduce a high grade form of heroin in the U.S.

1993 The Thai Army with support from the U.S. DEA destroyed thousands of acres of opium poppies.

1995 The Golden Triangle area of Southeast Asia is the worlds leading producer of opiates, over 2,500 tons annually.

HISTORY of OPIATES

1999 *United Nations Drug Control Policy (UNDCP) estimates that 75% of the worlds opiates come from Afghanistan and that a bumper crop of over 4,600 tons exists there.*

2000 *Taliban leader Mullah Omar bans opiate cultivation in Afghanistan, the UNDCP confirms the ban.*

Fall 2001 *War in Afghanistan, opiates, primarily heroin, flood the Pakistani and world market.*

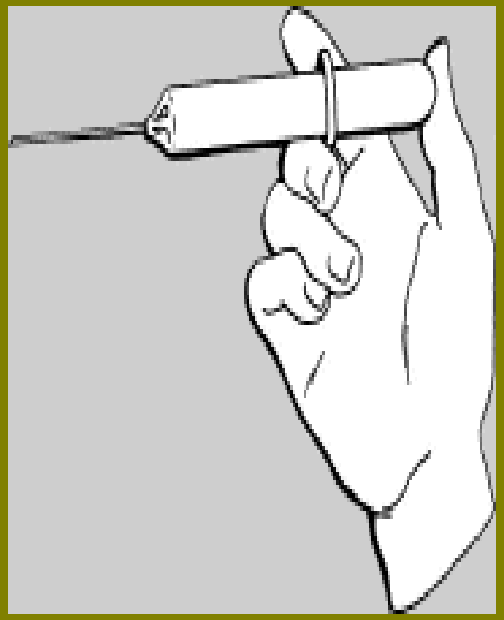
STREET NAMES

- Smack
- Mud
- Morf
- M
- Horse
- Muzzle
- Junk
- Dollies
- H
- Hairy
- Black Tar
- Hazel
- Soapium
- Poppy
- Tecata
- Chiva
- China White
- Flower

HOW ARE OPIATES CONSUMED?

Snorted **– Because of the high potency of heroin today, more and more users are snorting the drug.**

Smoked **– The method of choice for opium is smoking the tar like substance. Other opiates are often smoked on top of marijuana. This is known as *"snow capping".***



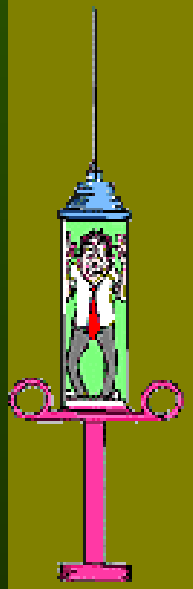
Injected **– Injecting opiates, specifically heroin, is still the choice ingestion method. Many addicts choose to inject the drug because of the quick and powerful onset of the effects. Users can inject the drug directly into the blood stream or the muscle tissue.**

Eaten **– All opiates can be consumed orally. Many prescription pain killers on the market today are opiates.**

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

- Absence of Stress
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Loss of Appetite
- Itchy Skin
- Loss of Concentration
- Altered Mental Process
- Impaired Vision
- Absence of Pain
- Loss of Sex Drive
- Sleepiness
- Constipation
- Overdose/Death

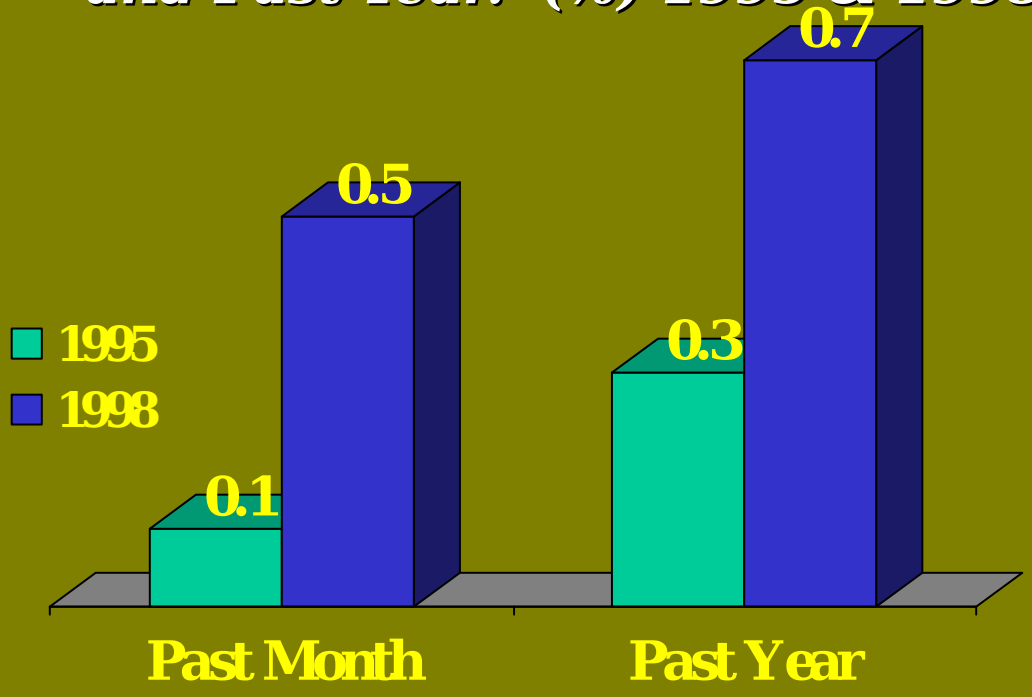
LONG TERM EFFECTS



- Severe Constipation
- Contracted Pupils
- Loss of Sex Drive
- Severe Weight Loss
- Frequent Infections
- Collapsed Veins
- Menstrual Irregularities
- Pregnancy Complications
- Immune System Damage
- Liver Damage
- Kidney Damage
- Lung Damage
- Brain Damage
- Death

OPIATE USE IN THE U.S. ARMY

Percentage of Soldiers in the United States Army That Have Used Opiates in the Past Month and Past Year. (%) 1995 & 1998



DoD Health Survey (1995 & 1998)

OPIATE TESTING IN THE ARMY

- Opiates can be detected in urine up to 2-3 days after it is ingested.
- Opiates are tested on a rotational schedule within the Army.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- http://www.drugabuse.gov/Infofacts/heroin.html
- http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/
- http://www.edrugrehab.com/drugs/opiates
- http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/heroin/index.html

UNITED STATES ARMY CENTER FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS

For more Information Contact
The Fort Lee ASAP Office:
(804) 734-9079
E-mail: usarmy.lee.imcom.mbx.leee-ima-adco@mail.mil